

Natalie Mecklenburg

Ms. Smith

Internship 4A

17 January 2025

Nicolas Machi Transcript

Natalie Mecklenburg: What is your current job title?

Nicolas Machi: CPO; certified prosthetist orthotist

Natalie: What is your favorite aspect of your career?

Nicolas: I enjoy the mix of clinical and technical work. Working with individual patients to find custom solutions for their specific needs.

Natalie: What is your least favorite aspect of your career?

Nicolas: The industry is becoming very paperwork demanding and dealing with insurance companies with endless requirements and rejections takes too much time away from my patients. I wish there was less of this so clinicians can prioritize patient interaction and care.

Natalie: What degree did you pursue in college and what college did you attend? What further education, if any, do you have?

Nicolas: My undergraduate degree was in Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. My post graduate certificates in Orthotics and Prosthetics were done at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Natalie: What first got you interested in this career field?

Nicolas: I was first introduced to the field while working in rehabilitation and gradually grew more interested in working on the prosthetic and orthotic devices specifically, so I pursued that and prosthetics became my entire career.

Natalie: How has the prosthetic industry changed since you first started working in it? How do you stay updated with all these advancements?

Nicolas: I enjoy this aspect of the industry as it is going through a period of constant growth and adaptation of new techniques and advanced technologies. I stay updated by completing my continuing education requirements for my certification, which every certified prosthetist must do. These are usually through online trainings or by attending professional conferences.

Natalie: What's the biggest piece of advice you would give to someone interested in a career in prosthetics?

Nicolas: It is a rewarding field, and our patients have a lot to teach us. As fast as things are changing, it is important to have a firm understanding of the basic concepts of our trade: anatomy, biomechanics, clinical assessment. These will help to better apply these new tools and materials and ensure good clinical outcomes for your patients.